

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 66, 68 and 70 as follows. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. to 65. (Cancelled)

66. (Currently Amended) A method of providing a plurality of services over a network, said method comprising the steps of:

transmitting, by a user terminal, a request for printing an image stored on the network to a service center;

storing, by the service center, items and their prices in a first table;

storing, by the service center, at least one group, each group having a plurality of service providers associated with and at least one common item of the first table included in each printing type provided by each of the plurality of service providers, in a second table;

updating, by the service center, the prices of the items in the first table;

calculating, by the service center, a charge related to the request on the basis of referring to the updated first table and the second table;

sending a notification of the calculated charge from the service center to the user terminal;

forwarding the request from the user terminal to one of the plurality of service providers within the at least one group via the network automatically upon receipt

by the service center of an instruction from the user terminal of whether to print, the instruction being responsive to the notification sent to the user terminal of the charge; and performing, by the one of the plurality of service providers, printing of the image according to the request received from the service center.

67. (Cancelled)

68. (Currently Amended) A system of providing a plurality of services over a network, said system comprising:

- a service center;
- a user terminal for transmitting a request for printing an image stored on the network to said service center;
- ~~a plurality of service providers;~~
- wherein said service center stores items and their prices in a first table;
- wherein said service center stores ~~the~~ at least one group, each group having a plurality of service providers associated with at least one common item of the first table and one or more items included in each printing type provided by each of the plurality of service providers, in a second table;
- wherein said service center updates the prices of the items in the first table;
- wherein said service center calculates a charge related to the request on the basis of referring to the updated first table and the second table;
- wherein said service center sends a notification of the calculated charge to the user terminal;

wherein said service center forwards the request to one of said plurality of service providers within the at least one group via the network automatically upon receipt by said service center of an instruction from said user terminal of whether to print, the instruction being responsive to the notification sent to the user terminal of the charge; and

wherein the one of said plurality of service providers performs printing of the image according to the request received from said service center.

69. (Cancelled)

70. (Currently Amended) A service center apparatus for managing a plurality of services provided over a network, said apparatus comprising:

reception means for receiving a request for printing an image stored on the network, from a user terminal via the network;

first storage means for storing items and their prices;

second storage means for storing one or more groups, each group having a plurality of service providers associated with and at least one common item of the first storage means ~~included in each printing type provided by each of the plurality of service providers;~~

updating means for updating the prices of the items in the first storage means ~~table;~~

calculation means for calculating a charge related to the request on the basis of referring to the updated first storage means and the second storage means;

notification means for sending a notification of the calculated charge to the user terminal; and

transmission means for transmitting the request to one of the plurality of service providers within the at least one group via the network automatically upon receipt of an instruction from the user terminal of whether to print, the instruction being responsive to the notification sent to the user terminal of the charge.

71. to 75. (Cancelled)